

[28th January 1931]

- 4.—(a) The Government have no information.
- (b) The office of the Police Surgeon is located very near to that of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic and Licensing. Examinations are held promptly and any doubts in regard to any driver can be settled quickly by personal consultation.
- (c) The rule requires that the medical examination shall be by the Police Surgeon.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—“ With reference to the answer given in clause (a), may I know whether the Government will call for the information ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ Yes, Sir.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“ With reference to the answer given in clause (b), in which the Government say ‘ The office of the Police Surgeon is located very near to that of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, etc., etc. ’, may I know whether that is the only reason why the bus and motor drivers are asked to produce certificates from the Police Surgeon ? May I know whether the Government will not consider the feasibility of these drivers producing certificates from expert medical people ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ I shall consider the suggestion.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ May I know whether there is any particular date before which these bus drivers should apply for medical certificates ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ I must ask for notice.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know whether it is not possible for the Government to have these bus and motor drivers examined free of charge considering the fact that the Police Surgeons are also allowed to have private practice ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ I shall consider that suggestion.”

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—“ May I know whether it is not possible to effect a reduction in fees in view of the fact that it is much less in other provinces than it is here ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ It is not so. In Calcutta it is Re. 5, whereas in Madras it is Rs. 2.”

Free medical examination of motor drivers.

* 177 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what are the rates of fees levied for the issue of a temporary licence;

(b) how often the motor driver is called upon to obtain a medical certificate and on what occasions;

(c) whether the Government have compared the Madras rates of licence fees with those obtaining at Bombay and Calcutta;

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(d) whether the Government have at any time considered the desirability of making medical examination of motor drivers free of any charge or of reducing the fee only to a nominal sum; and

(e) what is the total income derived by the Government from the levy of licence fees under the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules in the City of Madras during the year 1930?

A.—(a) The fee for a temporary licence which is valid for six months is Rs. 5. The licence may be renewed before the date of expiry for periods of six months at a time on payment of Rs. 3.

(b) The driver has to produce a medical certificate in the prescribed form when he first applies for a driving licence or, where he has not produced such a certificate before, at the time of renewal. The Commissioner of Police has, however, power to require a person who holds a driving licence to undergo a fresh medical examination if, in his opinion, to be recorded in writing, he has reasonable doubt as to the holder's physical fitness to drive a motor vehicle.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) The Government have no information.

Motor cars and motor buses in the Presidency.

* 178 Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of private motor cars and of cars and buses plying for hire in Madras City and in each district of this Presidency at the end of 1929 (figures to be given separately);

(b) the number of car and bus accidents in Madras City and in each district of this Presidency in 1929; and

(c) the proportion in which the number of accidents in 1929 has increased or decreased as compared with 1927 and 1928?

A.—A statement is placed on the table.^a

Police

Alleged lathi charges made at Mangalore in June and July 1930.

* 179 Q.—MR. U. C. SOBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many lathi charges by the police were made at Mangalore in June and July 1930; and what were the number of those injured and killed in each lathi charge and the nature of the wounds;

(b) whether the lathi charge on the first occasion in June 1930 was made on the civil disobedience volunteers who were marching in procession just as they entered the Humpannkutta circle, which is a meeting place of six or seven roads;

(c) whether the said circle was previously prohibited for public thoroughfare and whether it is one of the principal and busiest parts of the town;